

Pali Convention

12. The gloss

12.1 The gloss is the second line in the Trilinear Pali Text (TPT) method. I propose we use the term **gloss** to properly reflect its purpose, that is, to as follows:

- (1) To give a word for word translation of the Pali text.
- (2) To act as a structural guide between the English idiomation translation and the Pali text, that is, how the idiomatic translation is constructed from the Pali.
- (3) To give an idea of Pali syntax (a very crude one at best).

As such, the gloss is merely a guide. It is not a literal translation which, for example, K.R. Norman's translation of Theragāthā, Therīgāthā and Dhammapada.

12.2 A gloss is the simplest translation of the Pali word or phrase within its context. For example, *dhamma, vicaya* = "states investigation".

12.3 As far as possible, the gloss should follow the word-sequence of Pali. For example, *kāyānupassanā* = "body contemplation".

12.4 However, where the phrase translates as a long gloss, **hyphens** may be used to reflect each component.

For example, *sati, sambojjhanga* = "mindfulness enlightenment-factor".

12.5 Where the Pali is idiomatic, first gives the word for word translation and follow the idiomatic translation within parentheses.

For example, *gacchati* in *bhāvanā, pāripurim gacchati*,
gacchati = "he goes (happens)"